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THE MOST WONDERFUL CLOCK IN THE WORLD.



WRITTEN FOR THE SUNDAY REPUBLIC.

Perhaps there never was a utilitarian idea so poetically conceived and carried out as that of the Floral Clock at the World's Fair.

Time, instead of having the grim symbol that the ancients assigned to it, at the World's Fair is given a new and more cheerful one.

On the Floral Clock the seconds, minutes and hours are flower-crowned. Whether it was an accidental or intended symbolism, it is still a pretty one that the fleeting moments at the World's Fair should be marked off by the floral beauties of the world instead of by the grim and ugly scythe of inevitable old Father Time.

The great clock is laid out on the slope of the hill just in front of the north entrance of the Palace of Agriculture.

It is an exhibit of this department, all of its plants and shrubs and all of its mechanism being entered by exhibitors as specimens of their wares.

The dial of the clock is 100 feet in diameter and its minute hand about fifty feet in length.

The numerals marking the hours are fifteen feet in length and are all of bright-colored coleus, a foliage plant that grows dense and which may be kept symmetrical by the prun-



ing of the gardener's shears without fear of impairing the growth of the plant.

In the circle surrounding the numerals are collections of twelve distinct plants, each collection being twenty-five feet long and fifteen feet wide. Wooden troughs for the soil are provided in the steel hands of the clock. Myrtle, ivy and other creeping plants are to completely cover the steel hands, so that in every detail it is truly a floral clock.

The entire face of the clock is made of flowers, which will be changed so as to give a seasonal bloom during the Fair.

At night the clock is to be illuminated by 1,000 incandescent lamps, which will bring out the brilliant hues of the flowers and foliage and make the clock of service to pleasure-seekers who wish to take reckoning of the speeding of pleasant hours.

The machinery of the clock is contained in an ornamental pavilion at the top of the hill, which is glass-enclosed, showing visitors the movements of the works.

A great brass bell in the pavilion strikes the hours and quarter hours and a large hourglass shows the evolution of the process of ticking off the hours.